

Dr. Peterson

2013 Student Alumni Association “Gift to Tech”

11 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, 2013, Campanile

On behalf of the Georgia Tech community, we thank you for this very generous gift. The Student Alumni Association is the largest student organization on campus, and while it is one of the newest, it is making a big impact. You’re giving back to Georgia Tech while you’re still in college, getting an early start on a legacy of philanthropy for which Georgia Tech has a national reputation. You’re already partnering with alumni, who have matched your gift. Let me add my thanks to Tech alumnus Allen Ecker for his matching contribution.

I think it is very appropriate that we award this gift to the Georgia Tech band at the campanile, the spot where before every home football game the band gives a “mini concert” to students, alumni and other friends of Georgia Tech, rain or shine. The leadership of the band, as well as all band members, put in countless hours of practice to play at ballgames and numerous other special events throughout the year. We all have a common sense of pride when we hear them play. I’m sure they will put this gift to good use as they continue to serve as Georgia Tech ambassadors.

We have several proud Tech traditions, and by far the most impactful is philanthropy. The Student Alumni Association has won national awards for its leadership, and today’s announcement is a demonstration of that. To see the impact that philanthropy has made at Georgia Tech, just look over at the beautiful Clough Commons building. You have been able to enjoy it for the past two years because of a partnership between friends and alumni of Georgia Tech and the State of Georgia. Another example of philanthropy at work is our new McCamish Pavilion, where a number of you will walk across the stage to get your Georgia Tech degree in a couple of weeks. The list goes on to include scholarships like the Clough Tech Promise, academic scholarships, professorships and endowed chairs. I think it is tremendous that you as students are already giving back so generously to Georgia Tech. I believe you are the

best students in the world, and you are setting the pace today through your leadership giving. Thank you.